- Lending support to customized health insurance schemes initiated by the states under National rural Health Mission (NRHM).

\ **Recruitment of ASHAs**

883. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many ASHA's have been recruited till now;

(b) the details of their work responsibilities; and

(c) their average remuneration per month?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) 5.43 lakh ASHAs/Link workers have been selected so far.

(b) ASHA is a health activist in the community to create awareness on health, its social determinants and mobilize the community towards local health planning and increased utilization and accountability of the existing health services. Her roles and responsibilities are (i) to create awareness, (ii) To counsel (iii) to mobilize the community and facilitate them in accessing health and health related services, (iv) to work with the Village Health & Sanitation Committee of the Gram Panchayat, (v) Escort and accompany pregnant women & children requiring treatment, (vi) Provide primary medical care for minor illness, (vii) To act as a depot holder for essential provisions (viii) To inform about births and deaths and (ix) to promote construction of household toilets under total sanitation campaign.

(c) ASHA is an honorary volunteer and would not paid any salary or honorarioum. However, ASHA is being compensated for her time in the following situation:

- For duration of training in terms of TA and DA
- For participating in monthly/bi-monthly meetings for udertaking specific health or other social sector programmes with measurable outputs. (Disbursement of compensation to ASHA will be made as per specific payment mechanism built into individual programmes)
- The average remuneration depends on the total performance based payments the the ASHA is entitled to as per the work done by her. It can vary from village to village and ASHA to ASHA.

Promotion of khadi and **village industry**

t884. SHRI JAIPARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for the promotion of khadi and village industry every year during the last three years;

(b) whether Government has allocated any fund for this purpose to the State Governments during the above said period;

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the number of people employed in this industry, State-wise;

(d) whether Government is considering to provide any assistance to the people employed in this industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The Government has continued to encourage khadi and village industries in the country and some of the important steps taken by Government during the last three years to encourage khadi and village industries include.

(i) Amendments to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) Act, 1956, to revamp the KVIC.

(ii) Constitution of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) during July, 2006 for the development of Khadi and Village Industries in the country.

(iii) Constitution of National Khadi and Village Industries Board (NKVIB) during March 2007 to advise KVIC in its functioning.

(iv) Continued implementation of Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) which was introduced during 1995-96, to assit the setting up of village industry units in the rural areas, including small towns with population upto 20,000.

(v) Introduction of the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) for development of around 100 clusters of the traditional industries for enhanced competitiveness and employment of artisans and rural enterpreneurs.

(vi) Continued implementation of the Product Development Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme introduced in 2003-04 for improved design and packaging of khadi and village industry products.

(vii) Continued implementation of the Group Insurance Scheme, (Khadi Karigar Janashree Bima Yojana), which was introduced with effect from 15 August 2003 for the benefit of khadi workers/artisans.

(viii) Implementation of the Ready to Use Mission for Khadi Products to convert khadi fabric into ready-made garments for higher value addition.

(ix) Ensuring the availability of quality raw materials for khadi production through six Central Silver Plants of KVIC, etc.

(b) Government allocates funds to the KVIC for implementation of schemes for the promotion and development of khadi and village industries. The KVIC, in turn, allocates the funds, inter-alia, to the Khadi and Village Industries Boards of the States/Union Territories, registered khadi institutions, etc.

(c) The State/Union Territory-wise estimates of the number of persons employed in the khadi and village industry sector at the end of March, 2007 are given in the Statement *(See* below).

(d) and (e) For implementation of schemes for the promotion and development of the khadi and village industry sector, the Government has made a Plan provision of Rs. 1149 crore during 2008-09.